

US-PAT-NO: 5879910

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5879910 A

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TITLE: Hepatocyte growth factor protease
domain variants

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A naturally occurring huHGF variant has recently been identified which corresponds to an alternative spliced form of the huHGF transcript containing the coding sequences for the N-terminal finger and first two kringle domains of mature huHGF [Chan et al., Science 254, 1382-1385 (1991); Miyazawa et al., Eur. J. Biochem. 197, 15-22 (1991)]. This variant, designated HGF/NK2, has been proposed to be a competitive antagonist of mature huHGF.

In yet another embodiment, the invention relates to therapeutic compositions comprising HGF variants having HGF antagonist or agonist properties.

Chan et al., "Identification of a Competitive HGF Antagonist Encoded by an Alternative Transcript", Science 254:1382-1385 (1991).

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TITLE: Method of producing hepatocyte growth
factor/scatter factor and related cell lines

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Variants of the present invention also include, for instance, a soluble form of Met consisting of the extracellular HGF/SF-binding domain that acts as an antagonist of normal Met binding with HGF/SF. Such variants can be produced through molecular modelling techniques well known in the art of the invention. See, e.g., Fuh et al., Science 256: 1677-1680 (1992).